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The opening chapter, by the present editor of the Journal, Dr. Edward S. Dana, traces in detail the early history of the magazine and gives a sketch of its subsequent history. There is a table of scientific periodicals from 1771 to 1832, and a review of the various early svientific societies in Europe and America. The American Journal of Science was founded in 1818 by Benjamin Silliman, then "professor of chemistry, mineralogy, etc. at Yale College." Silliman had doubts as to the quantity of good material that he could get for his publication, and the support it would receive, so he widened its field as much as possible. The title-page of the first number states that the journal will deal with "Minerology, Geology, and the other branches of Natural History; including also Agriculture and the Ornamental as well as Useful Arts." It is interesting to contrast that with the present-day Journal, which is almost entirely restricted to mineralogy and geology, and finds difficulty in publishing the manuscripts that come in to it.

Dr. Dana tells of the completion of the first series of the Journal, of the changes in scope and staff, and of the addition of James Dwight Dana as associate editor. The history of the Journal up to its present issues is treated more briefly than is the early history, but is detailed enough to give the facts desired.

The remaining chapters of the book deal with various subjects of science. Of the twelve, five are concerned with geology, and one each with petrology, minerology, geophysics, chemistry, physics, zoology, and botany. The authors include such authorities as Charles Schuchert, Richard Swann Lull, William E. Ford, and Leslie R. Coe. They give excellent summaries of the subjects assigned them, and make the book an excellent one for reference. A feature of interest are the 22 portraits of scientific men of America and Great Britain.

C. L. F.

GENERAL BOTANY FOR UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES. By Hiram D. Densmore. Ginn and Company. $2.96.

The first part of this new text on botany is intended to present the biological aspects of plant life from the standpoints of structure and function and is based upon studies of the higher and more familiar seed-bearing plants. Three main themes are considered: the relations and adaptations of the higher plants to other organisms and to the inanimate portions of their environments; the cellular structure of plants in relation to their growth, reproduction and anatomy; and the phenomena of reproduction with relation to crossing, hybridization, and plant breeding.

Part II deals with the morphology, life histories, and the evolution of the main plant groups. In the chapter devoted to the fungi, emphasis is placed on the nature of enzymes and fermentation, and on the relations of these processes to parasitism, disease, and decay. In the treatment of the higher spore-bearing plants, and seed plants much attention is given to the evolution of structure and reproduction, instead of placing the emphasis upon the mere reproductive features, as is done in a great many of the older elementary text-books. In parts relating to structure, the newer conceptions of anatomy are followed.

Part III is designed to serve as an introduction to field work, and to a knowledge of the more interesting and important biological and economic aspects of a few important families and species among the spring plants. There is a considerable discussion of trees and their importance to man, and the main problems of forestry are emphasized by examples of the life of a few selected species of forest trees. The herbaceous monocotyledons, and the dicotyledons are studied from their biological and economic aspects, and their treatment is designed to serve as a guide for studies in other species.

Throughout the text the plants are presented as living organisms, comparable to animals, and with similar physiological life functions. The purely technical portions are linked up with the theoretical and economic aspects of the subject in a manner that brings the information home clearly and definitely. The treatment of hybridization and kindred subjects is as good as it is uncommon. The chapters on plant physiology are summarized and closely correlated with the seasonal life of such common plants as the bean, clover, and locust. Physiological processes are thus made directly applicable to seasoned life of species that every one knows, and can study.

Mechanically the book leaves little to be desired. The paper, press-work, and binding are excellent, and the book will not come to pieces at once when placed in the student's hands. The illustrations, both from photographs and drawings, are numerous, good, and excellently chosen.

M. J. A.

THE NEW STONE AGE IN NORTHERN EUROPE. By John M. Tyler. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1921. $3.00.

Henry Fairfield Osborn produced a bookon the men the Old Stone Age; Dr. Tyler has done the same for those of the New. He begins at the point where Osborn left off, and carries man on to the dawn of history, taking up in detail the migrations, cultures, daily activities, and existing relics of these ancient ancestors of ours.

Where and how man originated is still pretty much of question. We know that the earliest remains of man-like animals are found in southern and southeastern Asia. In those same regions today are the great apes that are probably descended from the same ancestors that gave rise to man. From the first ape-man to the high types of the Old Stone Age is a long step, but as Dr. Tyler is concerned mainly with the descendents of the Old Stone people, he covers it rather briefly.

The change from the age of the chipped stone implements to that of polished ones took place in northern Europe about fifteen to twenty thousand years ago. Researches in Asia indicate that there the transition was considerably earlier, and that the New Stone men migrated westward from the region of the Iranian plateau. However that may be, the relics of the shell heaps of Denmark and Scandinavia show that some thousands of years after the Cro-Magnon people made their